

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DPW-01 IO-13 EUR-25 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

DRC-01 (ADP) W

----- 071366

P R 121049Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7013

INFO AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL CAN THO

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 16308

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: SAIGON PRESS REACTION TO GVN PROTEST NOTE

REFS: A) SAIGON 16103

B) SAIGON 16167

C) SAIGON 16103

D) FBIS S111345Z SEPTEMBER

1. REFS A AND B NOTED PRESS REPORTS OF THE RECENT GVN PROTEST NOTE TO THE DRV AND INITIAL PRESS REACTION TO IT. REF C REPORTED SEPTEMBER 11 GVN SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO THE GVN PROTEST. THE PROTEST NOTE IS RECEIVING WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE. OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS HAS CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE NOTE IN VIETNAMESE AND AN EXTENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. ALL SAIGON DAILY PAPERS DATED SEPTEMBER 13 (WHICH APPEARED PM SEPTEMBER 12) FEATURE THE PROTEST, WITH BANNER HEADLINES TYPIFIED BY THAT IN RESPECTED INDEPENDENT CHINH LUAN: "A
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SERIOUS SITUATION IF COMMUNISTS HOLD ON TO THEIR 12 AIRFIELDS

IN SVN"; AND IN GVN-AFFILIATED DAN CHU. "STRONG MEASURES TO BE EMPLOYED."

2. DAN CHU DENOUNCES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRFIELDS AND PREDICTS THE GVN WILL EMPLOY "STRONG MEASURES" IF THE NVN COMMUNISTS DO NOT DISMANTLE THEM. THE PRE-GVN QUAT CUONG DENOUNCES THE DRV FOR ALLEGEDLY PREPARING FOR A "RENEWED WAR IN THE SOUTH" AND ADDED THAT THE US HAS JOINED IN THE PROTEST AND IS ALSO DEMANDING THE AIRBASES BE DISMANTLED. GENERALLY INDEPENDENT AND OFTEN SENSATIONALIST SONG THANH ASSERTS FLATLY "THE US WILL ATTACK IF MIG'S OPERATE IN SVN."

3. MANY PAPERS FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF THE COMMUNIST AIRFIELDS.

4. THE GVN PROTEST IS BEING GIVEN WIDE RTV COVERAGE. THE MAIN SAIGON TV NEWS SEPTEMBER 11 FEATURED COMMENTARY ON THE SUBJECT, WITH DETAILS OF THE AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION, THE INTRODUCTION OF AAA, AND SAM'S (SEE REF D). THE TV COMMENTATOR ALSO CHARGED THAT THE DRV HAS "ARROGANTLY AND ILLEGALLY SENT AIRCRAFT ACROSS THE DMZ, THUS VIOLATING ARTICLE 15-B OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT." HE ALSO CHARGED THE DRV WITH "SERIOUS VIOLATIONS" OF THE AGREEMENT THROUGH INFILTRATION OF ADDITIONAL WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THE AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION WAS TERMED A "BELLIGERENT ACT" WHICH HAD BEEN "CONFIRMED BY THE NVN COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVE HIMSELF, WHO STATED IN A JUNE 9 PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAIGON THAT THE NVN COMMUNISTS HAD THE RIGHT TO REPAIR AND ENLARGE AIRFIELDS LOCATED IN TEMPORARY TROOP QUARTERING ZONES."

5. THESE DRV VIOLATIONS THE SAIGON TV NEWS ANALYST TERMED "UN-ACCEPTABLE", PROOF THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE "SERIOUSLY VIOLATING" THE AGREEMENT, AND EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE "ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR AN EVEN MORE CRUEL WAR." HE CONTINUED: "THIS IS A PROVOCATION AGAINST THE SVN PEOPLE AND DEMONSTRATES CONTEMPT FOR THE WORLD PUBLIC.... THE RVN GOVERNMENT WILL RESERVE FOR ITSELF THE RIGHT TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES FOR ITS SELF PROTECTION, FOR INSURING ITS TERRITORIAL SAFETY, AND FOR DEFENDING ITS AIRSPACE." HE CONCLUDED BY ASSERTING THAT THE RVN GOVERNMENT "DEMANDS THAT (THE NVN COMMUNISTS) IMMEDIATELY AND ALL VIOLATIONS AND ILLEGAL INFILTRATION AND THEIR REPAIR AND ENLARGEMENT OF AIRFIELDS IN SVN...(AND ALSO) DEMAND THAT

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THEY DESTROY, DISMANTLE, AND IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW TO NVN ALL WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT, AND WAR MATERIAL THEY HAVE INSTALLED AT THESE AIRFIELDS."
APPLING

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NNN

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